

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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| (51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : G02F 1/136, H01L 51/20, 27/00 | A1 | (11) International Publication Number: WO 99/53371 (43) International Publication Date: 21 October 1999 (21.10.99) |
| <p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/07853</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 9 April 1999 (09.04.99)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data: 60/081,374 10 April 1998 (10.04.98) US 60/096,302 12 August 1998 (12.08.98) US</p> <p>(71) Applicant: E-INK CORPORATION [US/US]; 45 Spinelli Place, Cambridge, MA 02138 (US).</p> <p>(72) Inventor: DRZAIC, Paul; 6234 Lexington Ridge Drive, Lexington, MA 02420 (US).</p> <p>(74) Agent: LANZA, John, D.; Testa, Hurwitz & Thibault, L.L.P., High Street Tower, 125 High Street, Boston, MA 02110 (US).</p> | | <p>(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p>Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i></p> |
| <p>(54) Title: ELECTRONIC DISPLAYS USING ORGANIC-BASED FIELD EFFECT TRANSISTORS</p> <p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>A display comprises an encapsulated display media addressed by an organic-based field effect transistor. The display media comprises a plurality of particles and a fluid. The field effect transistor comprises an organic semiconductor.</p> <div data-bbox="1288 1485 1965 1913"></div> | | |

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ELECTRONIC DISPLAYS USING ORGANIC-BASED FIELD EFFECT TRANSISTORS

Related Applications

This invention claims priority to provisional applications U.S.S.N. 60/081,374 filed on April 10, 1998 and U.S.S.N. 60/096,302 filed on August 12, 1998.

Field of the Invention

This invention generally relates to electronic displays and more specifically to electronic displays addressed by organic-based field effect transistors.

Background of the Invention

Microencapsulated, particle-based displays can be made highly reflective, bistable, and optically and electrically efficient. To obtain a high resolution display, however, individual pixels of a display must be addressable without interference from adjacent pixels. One way to achieve this objective is to provide an array of nonlinear transistor elements, where one transistor is associated with each pixel. The addressing electrodes are connected to the pixel through the transistor.

Most examples of nonlinear elements to date have been fabricated using vacuum-deposited silicon on glass. This process is costly in addition to being complex. The complexity prevents large area devices from being readily constructed. In addition, it is difficult to create silicon transistors on plastic or other flexible film.

Recently, there has been significant development in the area of organic semiconducting polymers and molecules. Thin film transistors have been made out of semiconducting polymers.

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See Bao et al., *Soluble and Processable Regioregular Poly(3-hexylthiophene) for Thin Film Field-Effect Transistor Applications with High Mobility*, Appl. Phys. Lett. 69(26), 4108 (December 1996); and Bao et al., *High-Performance Plastic Transistors Fabricated by Printing Techniques*, Chem. Mater. 1997, 9, 1299. U.S. Patent No. 5,574,291 describes addressing liquid
5 crystal displays with transistors made out of semiconducting polymers. While remarkable advances have been made in the performance of organic-based transistors, the mobility characteristics of many organic semiconductor materials and devices are insufficient to successfully drive many types of liquid crystal or emissive displays. Therefore, many organic-based transistors are not suitable for use with liquid crystal displays.

10 In addition, liquid crystals can degrade the transistors when they come in contact with the transistors. Many organic semiconductor materials can be swollen by, or dissolved by, liquid crystalline fluids because those fluids are good solvents. This solvent compatibility makes it challenging to design systems in which organic transistor devices can remain stable while in contact with or close proximity to liquid crystalline solvents, limiting their viability.

15 Summary of the Invention

In one aspect, the invention features a display. The display comprises an encapsulated display media and an organic-based field effect transistor. The display media comprises a plurality of particles and a fluid, the display media has a first surface and a second surface. The organic-based field effect transistor comprises an organic semiconductor. The organic-based field effect
20 transistor is disposed adjacent the second surface of the display media for addressing the display media. The display media can comprise a plurality of microencapsulated electrophoretic particles, suspended particles, or rotating balls.

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In one embodiment, the organic semiconductor of the transistor comprises a polymeric and/or oligomeric semiconductor. For example, the polymeric semiconductor can comprise polythiophene, poly(3-alkyl)thiophene, alkyl-substituted oligothiophene, polythienylenevinylene, or poly(para-phenylenevinylene). For example, the oligomeric semiconductor can comprise
5 alpha-hexathienylene. In another embodiment, the organic semiconductor can be selected from a group consisting of pentacene, phthalocyanine, benzodithiophene, fullerene, buckminsterfullerene, tetracyanonaphthoquinone, and tetrakisimethylanimoethylene, and derivatives.

In one embodiment, the display further comprises a barrier layer disposed adjacent at least a portion of the organic-based field effect transistor. In one detailed embodiment, the display
10 comprises a plurality of pixel electrodes disposed adjacent the second surface of the display media and an array of transistors, each transistor protected with a barrier layer disposed adjacent the transistor. In another detailed embodiment, the display comprises an array of transistors encapsulated in a barrier capsule and disposed adjacent the second surface of the display media such that each transistor is connected to a pixel electrode.

15 The barrier layer or capsule can comprise a metal film, a metal oxide coating, a polymeric coating or a combination of these materials. In particular, a barrier layer or capsule comprising a metal film will also comprise an insulating coating to prevent unwanted electrical connections between the barrier capsule or layer and the transistor. The barrier layer or capsule can protect the transistor from light such as visible light or ultraviolet light. The barrier layer or capsule can
20 protect the transistor from oxygen or moisture. In addition, the barrier layer or capsule can protect the transistor from solvents or other chemicals. In another embodiment, the organic-based field effect transistors are disposed on a substrate. The substrate can be opaque. The substrate can protect the transistors from oxygen or moisture.

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In another aspect, the invention features a method of manufacturing a display. The method comprises the steps of: (a) providing an encapsulated display media comprising a plurality of particles and a fluid, the display media having a first surface and a second surface; and (b) providing an organic-based field effect transistor array comprising an organic semiconductor adjacent the second surface of the display media.

In one embodiment, step a) comprises providing an encapsulated display media on a first substrate; and step b) comprises (b1) providing an organic-based field effect transistor array on a second substrate, and (b2) combining the display media and the organic-based field effect transistor array to form the display.

In one embodiment, step (b) comprises printing the organic-based field effect transistor array. In one detailed embodiment, step (b) comprises printing the organic-based field effect transistor array using a solvent assisted printing step. In one embodiment, step (a) comprises providing a display media comprising microencapsulated electrophoretic particles, suspended particles, or rotating balls.

In another embodiment, step (b) comprises providing an organic-based field effect transistor array comprising a polymeric or oligomeric semiconductor. For example, the polymeric semiconductor can comprise polythiophene, poly(3-alkyl)thiophene, alkyl-substituted oligothiophene, polythienylenevinylene, or poly(para-phenylenevinylene). For example, the oligomeric semiconductor can comprise alpha-hexathienylene. In another embodiment, the organic semiconductor is selected from a group consisting of pentacene, phthalocyanine, benzodithiophene, fullerene, buckminsterfullerene, tetracyanonaphthoquinone, and tetrakisimethylanimoethylene.

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In another embodiment, step (b) comprises (b1) providing an organic-based field effect transistor array, and (b2) providing a barrier layer over each organic-based field effect transistor of the array to protect the transistor. In another embodiment, step (a) comprises (a1) providing a display media and (a2) providing a plurality of pixel electrodes adjacent the second surface of the display media; and step (b) comprises (b1) encapsulating the transistor array in a barrier capsule and step (b2) disposing the encapsulated transistor array adjacent the display media such that each transistor is disposed adjacent a pixel electrode. The barrier layer or capsule can comprise a metal film, a metal oxide coating, or a polymeric coating. The barrier layer or capsule can protect the transistor from light such as visible light or ultraviolet light. The barrier layer or capsule can protect the transistor from oxygen or moisture. The barrier layer or capsule can further protect the transistor from a solvent.

In another embodiment, step (b) comprises providing an organic transistor array by evaporating the organic semiconductor. In another embodiment, step (b) comprises providing an organic transistor array by solvent coating an insulator of the transistors. In still another embodiment, step (b) comprises providing an organic transistor array by evaporating conductive leads to the transistors.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The foregoing and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention, as well as the invention itself, will be more fully understood from the following description of preferred embodiments, when read together with the accompanying drawings, in which:

5 Figure 1a shows a cross section view of an electronic display according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 1b shows a cross section view of an electronic display according to another embodiment of the present invention.

10 Figure 1c shows a top view of the electronic display of Figure 1b with the display media and the first electrode removed.

Figure 2a shows a cross section view of an electronic ink according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 2b shows a cross section view of an electronic ink according to another embodiment of the present invention.

15 Figure 2c shows a cross section view of an electronic ink according to another embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 3 shows a cross section view of a bichromal sphere according to one embodiment of the present invention.

20 Figure 4 shows a cross section view of a means for addressing an electronic display according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Figures 5a and 5b show cross section views of a means for addressing an electronic display according to another embodiment of the present invention.

Figures 6a shows a cross section view of an organic-based field effect transistor according to one embodiment of the present invention.

5 Figures 6b shows a cross section view of an organic-based field effect transistor according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Figures 7 illustrates connections between a transistor and electrodes of an electronic display.

Figure 8 shows a cross section view of an organic-based field effect transistor according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 9 shows a cross section view of an electronic display according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 10 shows a cross section view of an electronic display according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Detailed Description of Preferred Embodiments

Referring to Figure 1a, an electronic display 10 includes a display media 12, a first electrode 16, a second electrode 18, an array of transistors 20, an array of row electrodes 17, and an array of column electrodes 15. The first electrode 16 is disposed on a first surface 11 of the display media 12. In one embodiment, the first electrode 16 comprises a transparent, continuous electrode. The second electrode 18 disposed on a second surface 13 of the display media 12 comprises an array of patterned pixel electrodes 18. Each patterned electrode 18 defines a pixel

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of the display 10. The transistors 20 are located underneath the pixel electrodes 18. Each transistor 20 is electrically connected to a pixel electrode 18 to address a pixel. A row electrode 17 is electrically connected to all the transistors 20 in that row. A column electrode 15 is electrically connected to all the transistors 20 in that column.

5 In the embodiment of Figure 1a, the transistors 20 are located on the backside of the display 10 from the standpoint of the viewer 19. Alternatively, the transistors 20 can be located on the front side of the display 10. In this embodiment, transparent pixel electrodes would be positioned on the first surface 11 of the display media 12, while the continuous electrode would be positioned on the second surface 13 of the display media 12. The continuous electrode need
10 not be transparent.

In one embodiment, the electronic display 10 can be reflective. In this embodiment, the size of the transistors 20 positioned on the backside of the display 10 does not affect the ability of the viewer 19 to view the display 10. Therefore, the size of the transistor 20 can be determined based on manufacturing considerations and transistor performance. The size of the transistor 20
15 can be in the range from about 1% to about 100% of the area of the pixel the transistor 20 addresses. In another embodiment, the electronic display 10 can be transmissive. In this embodiment, the transistors 20 can impede the ability of the viewer 19 to view the display 10. Therefore, the transistors 20 are made as small as possible. In one embodiment, the size of the transistor 20 is less than 50% of the area of the pixel addressed by the transistor 20. In a
20 preferred embodiment, the size of the transistor 20 is less than 20% of the area of the pixel addressed by the transistor 20. In a more preferred embodiment, the size of the transistor 20 is less than 5% of the area of the pixel addressed by the transistor 20.

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Referring to Figures 1b and 1c, an electronic display 10' includes a display media 12' having a plurality of pixels defined by the second electrodes 18'. The display 10' further includes the first electrode 16', the transistors 20', the row electrodes 17', the column electrodes 15', and an insulator 21. In this embodiment, the transistors 20' are positioned adjacent the pixel electrodes 18'.

In one embodiment, the display media 12 comprises a particle-based display media. In one detailed embodiment, the particle-based display media comprises an electronic ink. An electronic ink is an optoelectronically active material which comprises at least two phases: an electrophoretic contrast media phase and a coating/binding phase. The electrophoretic phase comprises, in some embodiments, a single species of electrophoretic particles dispersed in a clear or dyed medium, or more than one species of electrophoretic particles having distinct physical and electrical characteristics dispersed in a clear or dyed medium. In some embodiments the electrophoretic phase is encapsulated, that is, there is a capsule wall phase between the two phases. The coating/binding phase includes, in one embodiment, a polymer matrix that surrounds the electrophoretic phase. In this embodiment, the polymer in the polymeric binder is capable of being dried, crosslinked, or otherwise cured as in traditional inks, and therefore a printing process can be used to deposit the electronic ink onto a substrate.

The optical quality of an electronic ink is quite distinct from other electronic display materials. The most notable difference is that the electronic ink provides a high degree of both reflectance and contrast because it is pigment based (as are ordinary printing inks). The light scattered from the electronic ink comes from a very thin layer of pigment close to the top of the viewing surface. In this respect it resembles an ordinary, printed image. Also, electronic ink is

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easily viewed from a wide range of viewing angles in the same manner as a printed page, and such ink approximates a Lambertian contrast curve more closely than any other electronic display material. Since electronic ink can be printed, it can be included on the same surface with any other printed material, including traditional inks. Electronic ink can be made optically stable in all display configurations, that is, the ink can be set to a persistent optical state. Fabrication of a display by printing an electronic ink is particularly useful in low power applications because of this stability.

Electronic ink displays are novel in that they can be addressed by DC voltages and draw very little current. As such, the conductive leads and electrodes used to deliver the voltage to electronic ink displays can be of relatively high resistivity. The ability to use resistive conductors substantially widens the number and type of materials that can be used as conductors in electronic ink displays. In particular, the use of costly vacuum-sputtered indium tin oxide (ITO) conductors, a standard material in liquid crystal devices, is not required. Aside from cost savings, the replacement of ITO with other materials can provide benefits in appearance, processing capabilities (printed conductors), flexibility, and durability. Additionally, the printed electrodes are in contact only with a solid binder, not with a fluid layer (like liquid crystals). This means that some conductive materials, which would otherwise dissolve or be degraded by contact with liquid crystals, can be used in an electronic ink application. These include opaque metallic inks for the rear electrode (e.g., silver and graphite inks), as well as conductive transparent inks for either substrate. These conductive coatings include conducting or semiconducting colloids, examples of which are indium tin oxide and antimony-doped tin oxide. Organic conductors (polymeric conductors and molecular organic conductors) also may be used. Polymers include, but are not limited to, polyaniline and derivatives, polythiophene and derivatives, poly3,4-

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ethylenedioxythiophene (PEDOT) and derivatives, polypyrrole and derivatives, and polyphenylenevinylene (PPV) and derivatives. Organic molecular conductors include, but are not limited to, derivatives of naphthalene, phthalocyanine, and pentacene. Polymer layers can be made thinner and more transparent than with traditional displays because conductivity requirements are not as stringent.

Figure 2a shows an electrophoretic display 30. The binder 32 includes at least one capsule 34, which is filled with a plurality of particles 36 and a dyed suspending fluid 38. In one embodiment, the particles 36 are titania particles. When a direct-current electric field of the appropriate polarity is applied across the capsule 34, the particles 36 move to the viewed surface of the display and scatter light. When the applied electric field is reversed, the particles 36 move to the rear surface of the display and the viewed surface of the display then appears dark.

Figure 2b shows another electrophoretic display 40. This display comprises a first set of particles 42 and a second set of particles 44 in a capsule 41. The first set of particles 42 and the second set of particles 44 have contrasting optical properties. For example, the first set of particles 42 and the second set of particles 44 can have differing electrophoretic mobilities. In addition, the first set of particles 42 and the second set of particles 44 can have contrasting colors. For example, the first set of particles 42 can be white, while the second set of particles 44 can be black. The capsule 41 further includes a substantially clear fluid. The capsule 41 has electrodes 46 and 46' disposed adjacent it. The electrodes 46, 46' are connected to a source of voltage 48, which may provide an alternating-current (AC) field or a direct-current (DC) field to the capsule 41. Upon application of an electric field across the electrodes 46, 46', the first set of particles 42 move toward electrode 46', while the second set of particles 44 move toward electrode 46.

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Figure 2c shows a suspended particle display 50. The suspended particle display 50 includes needle-like particles 52 in a transparent fluid 54. The particles 52 change their orientation upon application of an AC field across the electrodes 56, 56'. When the AC field is applied, the particles 52 are oriented perpendicular with respect to the display surface and the display appears transparent. When the AC field is removed, the particles 52 are randomly oriented and the display 50 appears opaque.

The electrophoretic displays provided in Figures 2a-2c are exemplary only, and other electrophoretic displays can be used in accordance with the present invention. Other examples of electrophoretic displays are described in commonly owned, copending U.S. Patent Application Serial Numbers 08/935,800 and 09/140,792 which are incorporated herein by reference.

In another detailed embodiment, the display media 12 can comprise a plurality of bichromal spheres shown in Figure 3. A bichromal sphere 60 typically comprises a positively charged hemisphere 62 of a first color and a negatively charged hemisphere 64 of a second color in a liquid medium 66. Upon application of an electric field across the sphere 60 through a pair of electrodes 68, 68', the sphere 60 rotates and displays the color of one of the two hemispheres 62, 64.

An electronic display can be addressed in a variety of ways. In one embodiment, the display media 71 is sandwiched between two pieces of glass 72, 72' as shown in Figure 4. Each piece of glass has an etched, clear electrode structure 74, 74' formed using indium tin oxide. The first electrode 74 controls the pixels of the display 70 that may be addressed, that is changed from one visible state to another. A second electrode 74', sometimes called a counter electrode, addresses all the display pixels as one large electrode, and is generally designed so that the

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placement of the rear electrode wire connections do not produce any unwanted visible changes in the appearance of the display medium. In this embodiment, the transistors 75 are connected to the first electrodes 74. Alternatively, the second electrode 74' can also be patterned to control specific segments of the displays 70.

5 An alternate means for addressing an encapsulated electrophoretic display (or other display) structure is also described in Figures 5a and 5b. In this embodiment, electrodes 82, 82' are disposed on only one side of a display 80, allowing the display 80 to be rear-addressed without a front electrode. Utilizing only one side of the display 80 for electrodes 82, 82' simplifies fabrication of displays 80. For example, if the electrodes 82, 82' are disposed on only
10 the rear side of a display 80, both of the electrodes 82, 82' can be fabricated using opaque materials, because the electrodes 82, 82' do not need to be transparent.

Figure 5a depicts a single capsule 84 of an encapsulated display media. In brief overview, the embodiment depicted in Figure 5a includes a capsule 84 containing at least one particle 86 dispersed in a suspending fluid 88. The capsule 84 is addressed by a first electrode 82 and a
15 second electrode 82'. The first electrode 82 is smaller than the second electrode 82'. The first electrode 82 and the second electrode 82' may be set to voltage potentials which affect the position of the particles 86 in the capsule 84. A transistor 89 is connected to the first electrode 82.

The electrodes 82, 82' should be sized and positioned appropriately so that together they
20 address the entire capsule 84. There may be exactly one pair of electrodes 82, 82' per capsule 84, multiple pairs of electrodes per capsule 84, or a single pair of electrodes may span multiple capsules 84. In the embodiment shown in Figures 5a and 5b, the capsule 84 has a flattened,

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rectangular shape. In these embodiments, the electrodes 82, 82' should address most, or all, of the flattened surface area adjacent the electrodes 82, 82'. The smaller electrode 82 is at most one-half the size of the larger electrode 82'. In preferred embodiments the smaller electrode 82 is one-quarter the size of the larger electrode 82'; in more preferred embodiments the smaller electrode 82 is one-eighth the size of the larger electrode 82'. In even more preferred
5 embodiments, the smaller electrode 82 is one-sixteenth the size of the larger electrode 82'. It should be noted that reference to "smaller" in connection with the electrode 82 means that the electrode 82 addresses a smaller amount of the surface area of the capsule 84, not necessarily that the electrode 82 is physically smaller than the larger electrode 82'. For example, multiple
10 capsules may be positioned such that less of each capsule is addressed by the "smaller" electrode, even though both electrodes are equal in size.

Electrodes may be fabricated from any material capable of conducting electricity so that electrode 82, 82' may apply an electric field to the capsule 84. As noted above, the rear-addressed embodiments depicted in Figures 5a and 5b allow the electrodes 82, 82' to be
15 fabricated from opaque materials such as solder paste, copper, copper-clad polyimide, graphite inks, silver inks and other metal-containing conductive inks. Alternatively, electrodes may be fabricated using transparent materials such as indium tin oxide and conductive polymers such as polyaniline or polythiophenes. Electrodes 82, 82' may be provided with contrasting optical properties. In some embodiments, one of the electrodes has an optical property complementary
20 to optical properties of the particles 86.

The means of addressing an electronic display provided in Figures 4, and Figures 5a and 5b are exemplary only. Other means of addressing an electronic display can be used in

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accordance with the present invention. Other means of addressing an electronic display are described in commonly-owned, copending U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/141,280, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Referring to Figure 6a, the transistor 90 comprises an organic-based field effect transistor. An organic-based field effect transistor 90 includes a substrate 92, , a gate electrode 96 disposed adjacent the substrate 92, a dielectric layer 94 disposed adjacent the gate electrode 96, an organic semiconductor 97 disposed adjacent the dielectric layer 94, and a source electrode 98 and a drain electrode 99 disposed adjacent the dielectric layer 94 and in contact with the semiconductor layer 97. The substrate 92, for example, can comprise an insulator such as undoped silicon, glass, or plastic. Alternatively, the substrate can be patterned to serve as an electrode, which can be in electrical connection with a pixel electrode, or itself serve as the pixel electrode. The gate electrode 96, the source electrode 98, and the drain electrode 99, can comprise a metal such as gold. Alternatively, the electrodes 96, 98 and 99 can comprise a conductive polymer such as polythiophene or polyaniline, a printed conductor such as a polymer film comprising metal particles such as silver or nickel, a printed conductor comprising a polymer film containing graphite or some other conductive carbon material, or a conductive oxide such as tin oxide or indium tin oxide, or metal electrodes such as aluminum or gold. The dielectric layer 94, for example, can comprise a silicon dioxide layer. Alternatively, the dielectric layer 94 can comprise an insulating polymer such as polyimide and its derivatives, an inorganic oxide, an inorganic nitride such as silicon nitride, or an inorganic/organic composite material such as an organic-substituted silicon oxide, or a sol-gel organosilicon glass.

Figure 6b provides another configuration of an organic-based field effect transistor 90'. The transistor 90' includes a substrate 92', a gate electrode 96' provided on the substrate 92', a

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dielectric layer 94' provided on the gate electrode 96', an organic semiconductor 97' provided on the dielectric layer 94', and a source electrode 98' and a drain electrode 99' provided on the organic semiconductor 97'. For example, the substrate 92' can comprise polyester, or some other film-based polymer. Alternatively, the substrate 92' can be a metal foil insulated from the gate electrode by a non-conducting material. The gate electrode 96' can comprise Indium Tin Oxide or a conducting polymer such as polyaniline. The dielectric layer 94' can comprise polyimide. The field effect transistor configurations provided in Figures 6a and 6b are exemplary only. Other transistor designs known to those skilled in the art can be used in accordance with the present invention. For example, a top gate structure in which the source and drain electrodes are placed adjacent the substrate, covered by the dielectric layer, which in turn is covered by the semiconductor and gate electrode, can also be used in accordance with the present invention.

Referring to Figure 7, each transistor 100 is electrically connected to a pixel electrode 102, a column electrode 104, and a row electrode 106. The pixel electrode 102 is connected to the drain of the transistor 100. The column electrode 104 is connected to the source of the transistor 100. The row electrode 106 is connected to the gate of the transistor 100.

In one embodiment, transistors sharing a common gate electrode are activated. The conductive substrate can be patterned such that a voltage is applied to the transistors in a common row or a common column only. Alternatively, if the transistors are spaced far enough apart or if the conductivity of the substrate is poor, than a voltage placed on the gate electrode will only provide enough voltage to activate nearby transistors.

In one embodiment, the organic semiconductor comprises a polymeric or oligomeric semiconductor. Examples of suitable polymeric semiconductors include, but are not limited to,

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polythiophene, poly(3-alkyl), alkyl-substituted oligothiophene, polythienylenevinylene, poly(para-phenylenevinylene) and doped versions of these polymers. An example of suitable oligomeric semiconductor is alpha-hexathienylene. Horowitz, *Organic Field-Effect Transistors*, Adv. Mater., 10, No. 5, p. 365 (1998) describes the use of unsubstituted and alkyl-substituted

5 oligothiophenes in transistors. A field effect transistor made with regioregular poly(3-hexylthiophene) as the semiconductor layer is described in Bao et al., *Soluble and Processable Regioregular Poly(3-hexylthiophene) for Thin Film Field-Effect Transistor Applications with High Mobility*, Appl. Phys. Lett. 69 (26), p. 4108 (December 1996). A field effect transistor made with α -hexathienylene is described in U.S. Patent No. 5,659,181.

10 In another embodiment, the organic semiconductor 90, 90' comprises a carbon based compound. Examples of suitable carbon based compounds include, but are not limited to, pentacene, phthalocyanine, benzodithiophene, fullerene, buckminsterfullerene, tetracyanonaphthoquinone, and tetrakisimethylanimoethylene.

In one embodiment, the display is addressed in the following manner. While a voltage is

15 applied to the gate electrodes on a row, different voltages are applied to each column electrode so that each pixel in that row is driven to a unique state. The characteristics of the transistors prevent pixels on other rows from responding to the column voltages. Each row electrode (gate line) is then scanned in sequence, so that an image can be built up across the entire display. In another embodiment, the electronic display comprises an irregular grouping of pixels and

20 electrodes, rather than a regular x-y grid of electrodes and pixels.

In one embodiment, an organic-based field effect transistor is protected by a barrier layer. The barrier layer protects the transistor from air, water, light or other environmental factors to

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which the transistor can be sensitive. The barrier layer also protects the transistor from the solvent of the display media, if necessary. Where the solvent of the display media has a different polarity from the transistor material, contact between the solvent and the transistor may not affect the transistor properties. However, where the solvent would affect the properties of the transistor upon contact, the barrier layer segregates the solvent and the transistor. In one embodiment, the barrier layer is opaque. In one embodiment, the barrier layer comprises a metal film such as an aluminum film. In another embodiment, the barrier layer comprises a metal oxide coating such as Indium Oxide, Tin Oxide, Indium Tin Oxide, Silicon Monoxide, or Silicon Dioxide coatings. A metal film layer or a conducting oxide film layer may require additional insulating layers to prevent unwanted electrical connections between transistor components. In another embodiment, the barrier layer comprises a polymeric film containing fluorine. In another embodiment, the barrier layer comprises a polymeric film containing absorbing particles or dyes. In still another embodiment, the barrier layer comprises multiple layers of materials including metal and/or insulator. For example, the barrier layer can comprise a multi layer polymer composite film.

Referring to Figures 8 and 9, each transistor 90' is individually protected from the display media 93 by a barrier layer 110. Each transistor 90' is positioned adjacent a pixel electrode 124 on a substrate 92'. The column electrode 123, and the row electrode (not shown) are also provided on the substrate 92'. The barrier layer 110 is positioned over at least the semiconductor layer 97' of the transistor 90' which would otherwise be exposed to the display media 93.

Alternatively, the barrier layer 110 can protect the entire transistor 90'. The source electrode 98' is connected to the column electrode 123. The drain electrode 99' is connected to the pixel electrode 124. The gate electrode 96' is connected to the row electrode (not shown).

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Referring to Figure 10, an array of transistors 130 are protected from the display media 132 with a first barrier layer 133. The array of transistors 130 are positioned on a substrate and placed underneath the pixel electrodes 134. The substrate 135 also functions as a second barrier layer, protecting the transistors 130 from the environment. The edges of the first barrier layer 133 and the second barrier layer are sealed, thereby forming a barrier capsule 136 encapsulating the array of transistors 130. The barrier capsule 136 also encapsulates the column electrodes 138 and the row electrodes (not shown). The first barrier layer 133 includes a plurality of vias for providing an electrical contact between a transistor 130 and its adjacent pixel electrode 134. The vias can be made by etching the first barrier layer 133 to provide a plurality of opening and providing a conductive material inside the openings, thereby providing electrical contact between the drain electrode 137 of the transistor 130 and the pixel electrode 134.

An electronic display comprising a microencapsulated particle-based display media and an organic-based field effect transistor offer numerous advantages.

First, the display can be made inexpensively using a simple manufacturing process. For example, both the organic-based field effect transistor and the display media can be printed. Commonly owned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/140,856 filed on August 27, 1998, incorporated herein by reference, describes an electronic display which is printed in its entirety. Since the entire display can be printed, the display can be made large. The display can possess a large number of pixels addressed in a row and column (also known as XY) addressing scheme. The display can also be made using flexible substrates.

Second, the performance requirements for the organic-based field effect transistor when used in this particle-based display is not stringent. Because of low current requirements of the

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particle-based encapsulated display media, transistors having moderate performance characteristic (i.e., transistor mobility of less than $10^{-3} \text{ cm}^2/\text{Vs}$) can be suitable for driving such display.

Third, since a microencapsulated particle-based display is truly reflective, the underlying substrate need not be transparent. This offers significant design advantages for the combination
5 of organic-based transistors and microencapsulated particle-based displays. For example, the transistor can be as large as the pixel itself.

Fourth, since the microencapsulated particle-based electrophoretic display can be bistable and require updating only occasionally, the organic transistor need not address the display continuously, which will extend the life of the transistor.

10 Fifth, a microencapsulated particle-based display media prevents fluid from the display media from coming in contact with the transistor device, and provides additional stability for the transistor.

In one embodiment, a display is created by printing the entire display or a portion of the display. The term "printing" is intended to include all forms of printing and coating, including:
15 premetered coating such as patch die coating, slot or extrusion coating, slide or cascade coating, and curtain coating; roll coating such as knife over roll coating, forward and reverse roll coating; gravure coating; dip coating; spray coating; meniscus coating; spin coating; brush coating; air knife coating; silk screen printing processes; electrostatic printing processes; thermal printing processes; and other similar techniques.

20 In one embodiment, the display is manufactured by providing conductive coatings to form column electrodes, row electrodes, and pixel electrodes on a substrate, providing organic-based transistors on the substrate, printing an electronic ink comprising a plurality of encapsulated

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display media on the substrate, and printing a second conductive coating on the electronic ink. The conductive coatings can be provided by printing, evaporation, or sputtering, or using any other suitable method known to those skilled in the art. The conductive coatings may be Indium Tin Oxide (ITO) or some other suitable conductive material. The conductive coatings may be applied from a vaporous phase, by electrolytic reaction, or deposition from a dispersed state such as spray droplets or dispersions in liquids. The conductive coatings need not be the same conductive material. Printable electrode structures for displays are described in commonly owned U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/141,103, filed on August 27, 1998, incorporated herein by reference. In one embodiment, the substrate is a polyester sheet. The electronic ink can be printed in a variety of ways including screen printing, ink jet printing, and deposition. Details of these printing methods are described in commonly owned U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 08/935,800 filed on September 23, 1997, incorporated herein by reference.

In one embodiment, the organic-based transistor is also printed in its entirety. For example, an organic-based transistor comprising electrodes based on ITO or polymeric conductor, a polymeric dielectric layer, and a polymeric semiconductor can be fabricated by printing. Bao et al., *High-Performance Plastic Transistors Fabricated by Printing Techniques*, Chem. Mater. 1997, 9, 1299-1301 describes an organic-based transistor made by printing. In one embodiment, an organic semiconductor of the organic transistor can be made using a solvent-assisted printing step. In this embodiment, the polymer material to be printed is dissolved in a solvent, and the solution containing the polymer and the solvent is printed on the electrode. Subsequently, the solvent evaporates and leaves behind the polymer material. The solvent may

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evaporate at room temperature or at an elevated temperature, under vacuum, under exposure to a stream of air, or a combination of the above.

In another embodiment, the organic-based transistor is fabricated using a combination of a variety of methods. For example, the organic semiconductor layer can be provided using
5 evaporation. In evaporation, the material to be deposited is typically placed in a container and is heated under reduced pressure, vaporizing the molecules. The vaporized molecules strike a substrate and forms a coating on the substrate. The electrodes and leads of the transistor can be fabricated by printing, coating, evaporation, and/or photolithography. Likewise, the dielectric layer can be fabricated using any of the above described methods.

10 In another embodiment, the organic transistor is protected by a barrier layer. The transistor can be protected by coating the transistor with a film comprising the barrier layer material. For example, the barrier layer can comprises a metal film, a metal oxide coating or a polymeric film. Alternatively, the transistor can be protected by laminating the transistor and the barrier layer, printing the barrier layer on the transistors, solvent coating the barrier layer on the
15 transistors, or evaporating or sputtering the barrier layer on the transistors. In still another embodiment, an array of organic-based transistors can be encapsulated in a barrier capsule. The barrier capsule can be formed by providing a first barrier layer over the transistors, a second barrier layer under the transistors, and sealing the edges of the first and second barrier layers. The first barrier layer can be printed, coated, evaporated or sputtered on the transistors. The second
20 barrier layer can comprise a substrate on which the transistors are formed. Other suitable methods known to those skilled in the art can be used to encapsulate the organic-based transistors in a barrier capsule. These various methods are well known to those skilled in the art.

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In another embodiment, the organic-based transistors are fabricated on a first substrate, and the electronic ink is fabricated on a second substrate. Subsequently, the two substrates are laminated together to form a display device.

While the invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to specific preferred embodiments, it should be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in form and detail may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.



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Claims

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A display comprising:
 - 2 an encapsulated display media comprising a plurality of particles and a fluid, the display
 - 3 media having a first surface and a second surface; and
 - 4 an organic-based field effect transistor comprising an organic semiconductor, the organic-
 - 5 based field effect transistor disposed adjacent the second surface of the display media for
 - 6 addressing the display media.
- 1 2. The display of claim 1 wherein the first surface displays an image or an alphanumeric character.
- 1 3. The display of claim 1 further comprising a substrate, and wherein the display media is printed
2 on the substrate.
- 1 4. The display of claim 4 wherein the display media comprises a plurality of microencapsulated
2 electrophoretic particles.
- 1 5. The display of claim 1 wherein the display media comprises a plurality of microencapsulated
2 suspended particles.
- 1 6. The display of claim 1 wherein the display media comprises a plurality of microencapsulated
2 rotating balls.
- 1 7. The display of claim 1 wherein the organic semiconductor comprises a polymeric
2 semiconductor.
- 1 8. The display of claim 7 wherein the polymeric semiconductor comprises polythiophene.

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- 1 9. The display of claim 8 wherein the polymeric semiconductor comprises poly(3-alkyl)thiophene.
- 1 10. The display of claim 7 wherein the polymeric semiconductor comprises an alkyl-substituted
2 oligothiophene.
- 1 11. The display of claim 1 wherein the organic semiconductor comprises alpha-hexathienylene.
- 1 12. The display of claim 1 wherein the organic semiconductor is selected from a group consisting
2 of pentacene, phthalocyanine, benzodithiophene, fullerene, buckminsterfullerene,
3 tetracyanonaphthoquinone, and tetrakisimethylanimoethylene.
- 1 13. The display of claim 7 wherein the polymeric semiconductor comprises
2 polythienylenevinylene.
- 1 14. The display of claim 7 wherein the polymeric semiconductor comprises poly(para-
2 phenylenevinylene).
- 1 15. The display of claim 1 wherein the organic semiconductor comprises an oligomeric
2 semiconductor.
- 1 16. The display of claim 1 further comprises a barrier layer disposed adjacent the organic-based
2 field effect transistor.
- 1 17. The display of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of pixel electrodes disposed adjacent the
2 second surface of the display media and wherein the organic-based field effect transistor
3 comprises a plurality of transistors, each transistor protected with a barrier layer disposed
4 adjacent the transistor.

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1 18. The display of claim 17 wherein the organic-based field effect transistor comprises an array of
2 transistors encapsulated in a barrier capsule and disposed adjacent the second surface of the
3 display media such that each transistor is disposed adjacent a pixel electrode.

1 19. The display of claim 16 wherein the barrier layer comprises a metal film.

1 20. The display of claim 16 wherein the barrier layer comprises a metal oxide coating.

1 21. The display of claim 16 wherein the barrier layer comprises a polymeric coating.

1 22. The display of claim 16 wherein the barrier layer comprises a material capable of protecting
2 the transistor from light.

1 23. The display of claim 22 wherein the light comprises at least one of visible or ultraviolet light.

1 24. The display of claim 16 wherein the barrier layer comprises a material capable of protecting
2 the transistor from the display media.

1 25. The display of claim 16 wherein the barrier layer comprises a material capable of protecting
2 the transistor from oxygen.

1 26. The display of claim 16 wherein the barrier layer comprises a material capable of protecting
2 the transistor from moisture.

1 27. The display of claim 18 wherein the barrier capsule comprises a plurality of vias providing
2 electrical contact between each transistor and the adjacent pixel electrode.

1 28. The display of claim 1 wherein the organic-based field effect transistor is disposed on an
2 opaque substrate.

1 29. The display of claim 1 wherein the organic-based field effect transistor is disposed on a
2 substrate comprising a material capable of protecting the transistor from oxygen.

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1 30. The display of claim 1 wherein the organic-based field effect transistor is disposed on a
2 substrate comprising a material capable of protecting the transistor from moisture.

1 31. A method of manufacturing a display comprising the steps of:

2 (a) providing an encapsulated display media comprising a plurality of particles and a fluid,
3 the display media having a first surface and a second surface; and

4 (b) providing an organic-based field effect transistor array comprising an organic
5 semiconductor adjacent the second surface of the display media.

1 32. The method of claim 31 wherein step a) comprises providing an encapsulated display
2 media on a first substrate; and step b) comprises (b1) providing an organic-based field effect
3 transistor array on a second substrate, and (b2) combining the display media and the organic-
4 based field effect transistor array to form the display.

1 33. The method of claim 31 wherein step (b) comprises printing the organic-based field effect
2 transistor array.

1 34. The method of claim 31 wherein step (b) comprises printing the organic-based field effect
2 transistor array using a solvent assisted printing step.

1 35. The method of claim 31 wherein step (a) comprises providing a display media comprising
2 microencapsulated electrophoretic particles.

1 36. The method of claim 31 wherein step (a) comprises providing a display media comprising
2 microencapsulated suspended particles.

1 37. The method of claim 31 wherein step (a) comprises providing a display media comprising
2 microencapsulated rotating balls.

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1 38. The method of claim 31 wherein step (a) comprises providing a substrate and printing the
2 display media on the substrate.

1 39. The method of claim 31 wherein step (b) comprises providing an organic-based field effect
2 transistor array comprising a polymeric semiconductor.

1 40. The method of claim 31 wherein step (b) comprises providing an organic-based field effect
2 transistor array comprising alkyl-substituted oligothiophene.

1 41. The method of claim 31 wherein step (b) comprises providing an organic-based field effect
2 transistor array comprising alpha-hexathienyl.

1 42. The method of claim 31 wherein step (b) comprises providing an organic-based field effect
2 transistor array comprising an organic semiconductor selected from a group consisting of
3 pentacene, phthalocyanine, benzodithiophene, fullerene, buckminsterfullerene,
4 tetracyanonaphthoquinone, and tetrakisimethylanimoethylene.

1 43. The method of claim 39 wherein step (b) comprises providing an organic-based field effect
2 transistor array comprising polythienylenevinylene.

1 44. The method of claim 39 wherein step (b) comprises providing an organic-based field effect
2 transistor array comprising poly(para-phenylenevinylene).

1 45. The method of claim 31 wherein step (b) comprises (b1) providing an organic-based field
2 effect transistor array, and (b2) providing a barrier layer over each organic-based field effect
3 transistor of the array to protect the transistor.

1 46. The method of claim 31 wherein step (a) comprises (a1) providing a display media and (a2)
2 providing a plurality of pixel electrodes adjacent the second surface of the display media; step (b)

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3 comprises (b1) encapsulating the transistor array in a barrier capsule and (b2) disposing the
4 encapsulated transistor array adjacent the display media such that each transistor is disposed
5 adjacent a pixel electrode.

1 47. The method of claim 46 wherein step (b) further comprises (b3) providing a plurality of
2 openings on the barrier capsule to provide electrical connection between the transistor and the
3 adjacent pixel electrode.

1 48. The method of claim 45 wherein step (b2) comprises providing a barrier layer which protects
2 the transistor array from light.

1 49. The method of claim 45 wherein step (b2) comprises providing a barrier layer which protects
2 the transistor array from moisture.

1 50. The method of claim 45 wherein step (b2) comprises providing a barrier layer which protects
2 the transistor array from oxygen.

1 51. The method of claim 31 wherein step (b) comprises providing an organic-based transistor
2 array by evaporating the organic semiconductor of at least one transistor of the array.

1 52. The method of claim 31 wherein step (b) comprises providing an organic-based transistor
2 array by solvent coating an insulator of at least one transistor of the array.

1 53. The method of claim 31 wherein step (b) comprises providing an organic-based transistor
2 array by evaporating conductive leads of at least one transistor of the array.

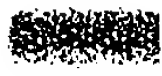
1 54. The method of claim 31 wherein step (b) comprises providing an organic-based transistor
2 array by solvent coating at least one of a gate electrode, a source electrode, and a drain electrode
3 of at least one transistor of the array.

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1 55. The method of claim 31 wherein step (b) comprises providing an organic-based transistor
2 array by evaporating at least one of the organic semiconductor and an insulator of at least one
3 transistor of the array.

1 56. The method of claim 31 wherein step (b) comprises providing an organic-based transistor
2 array by sputtering at least one of a gate electrode, a source electrode, a drain electrode, an
3 insulator, and the organic semiconductor of at least one transistor of the array.

1 57. The method of claim 31 wherein step (b) comprises providing an organic-based field effect
2 transistor array comprising an oligomeric semiconductor.



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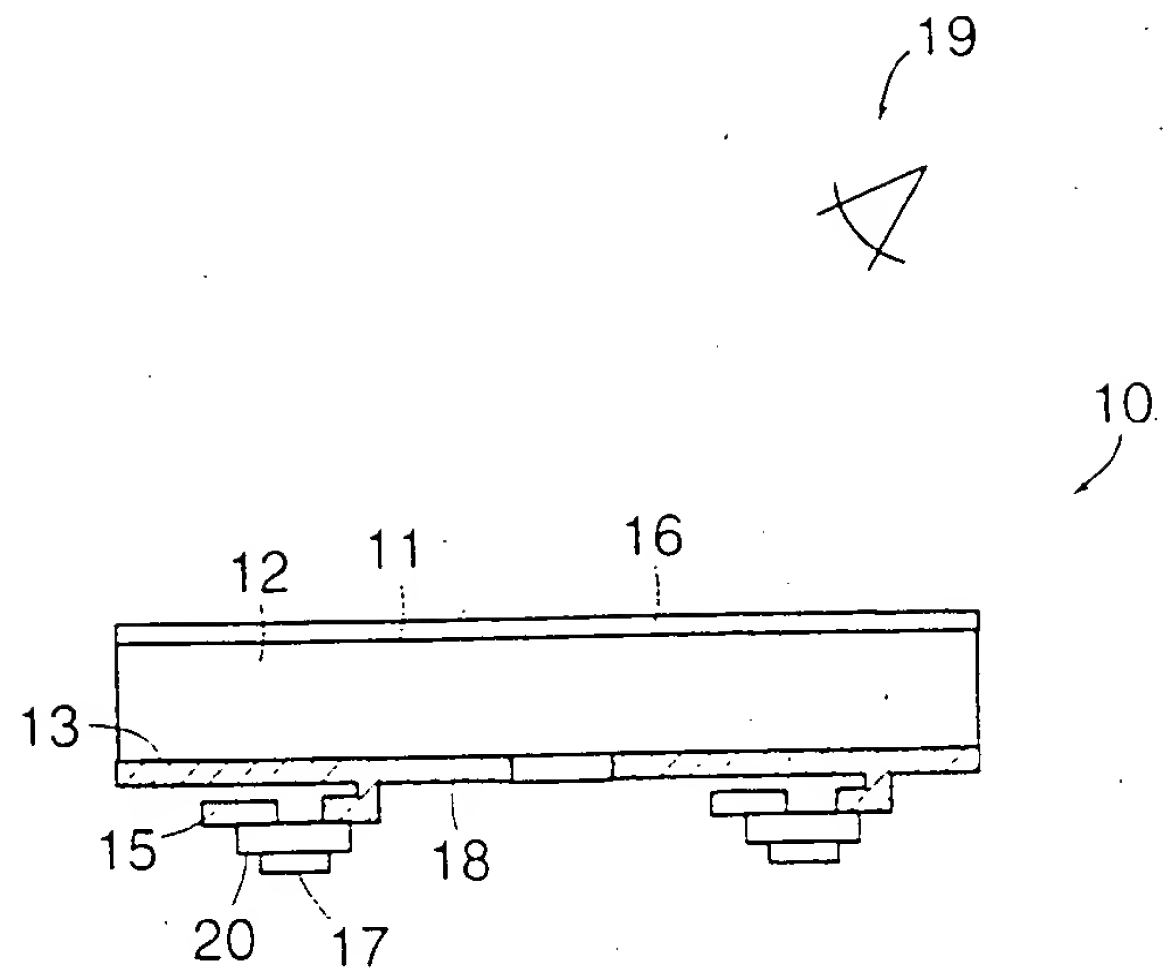


FIG. 1a

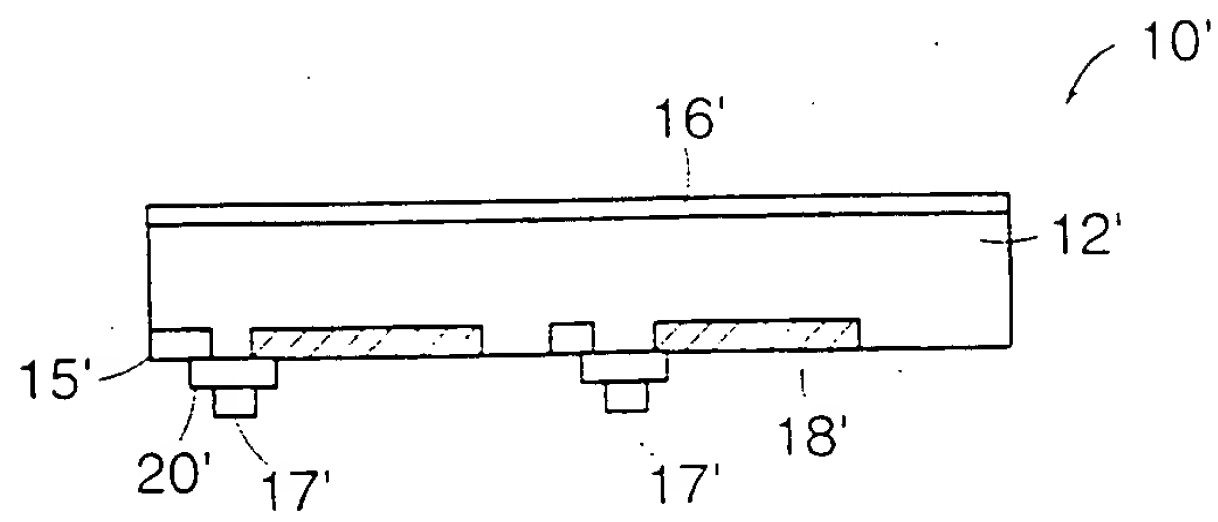


FIG. 1b

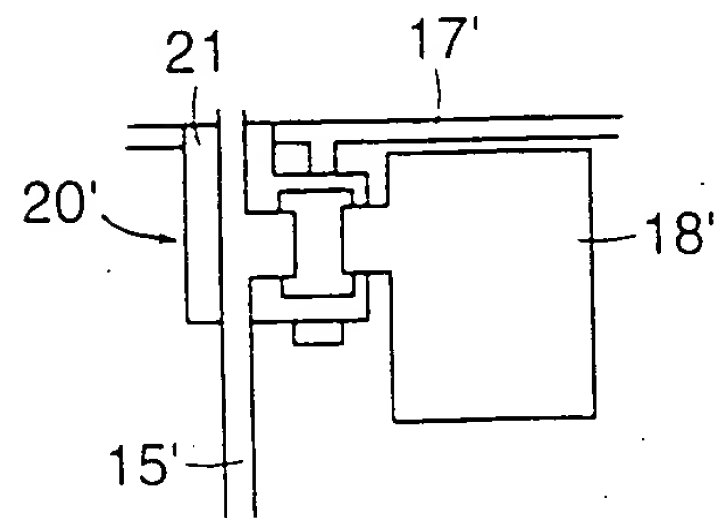


FIG. 1c

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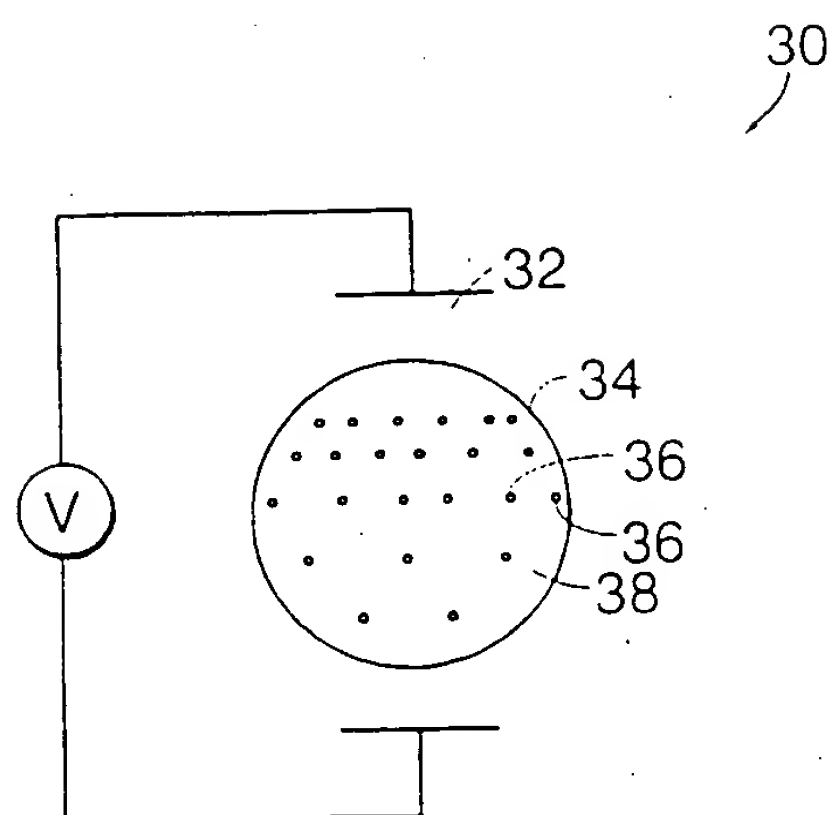


FIG. 2a

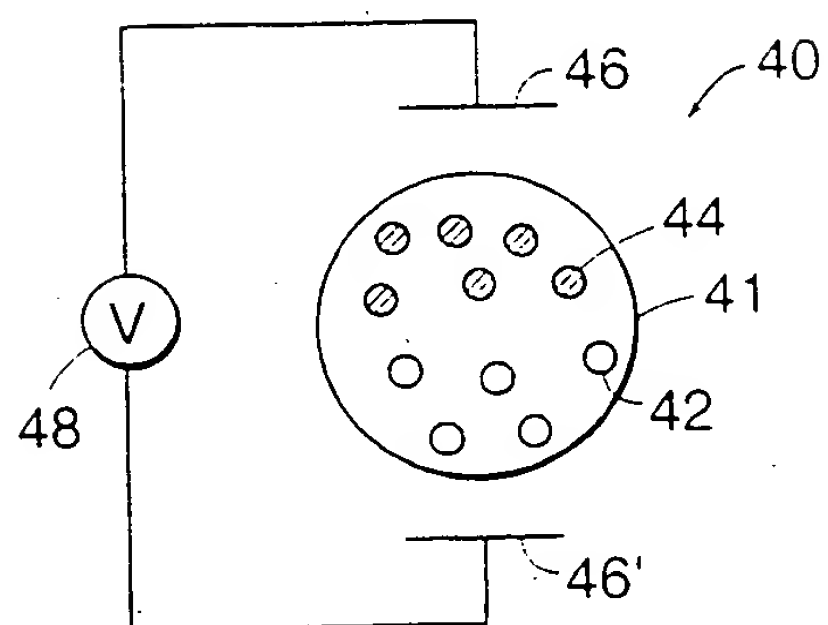


FIG. 2b

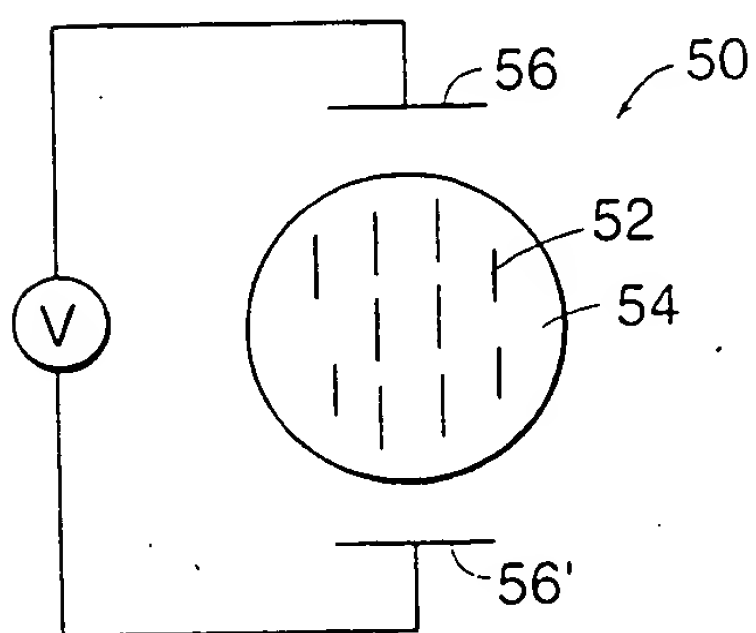


FIG. 2c

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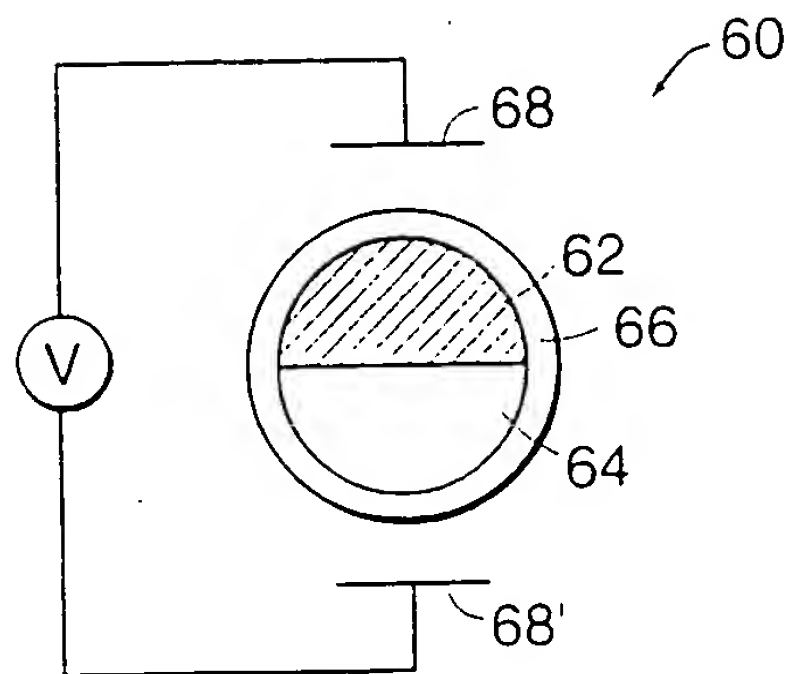


FIG. 3

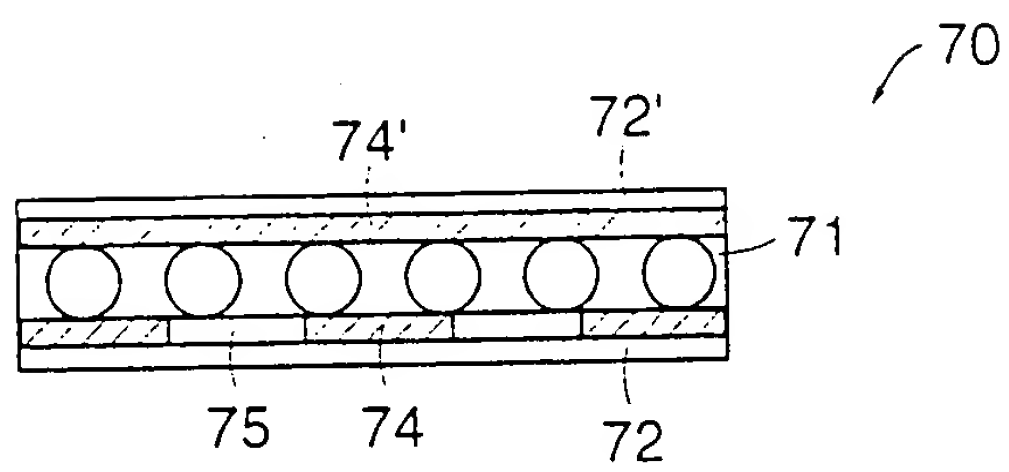


FIG. 4

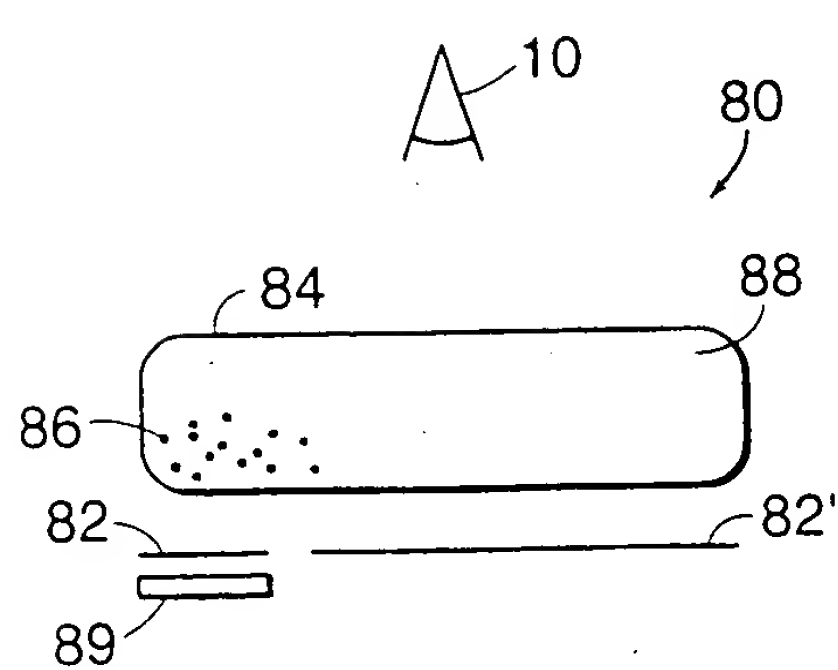


FIG. 5a

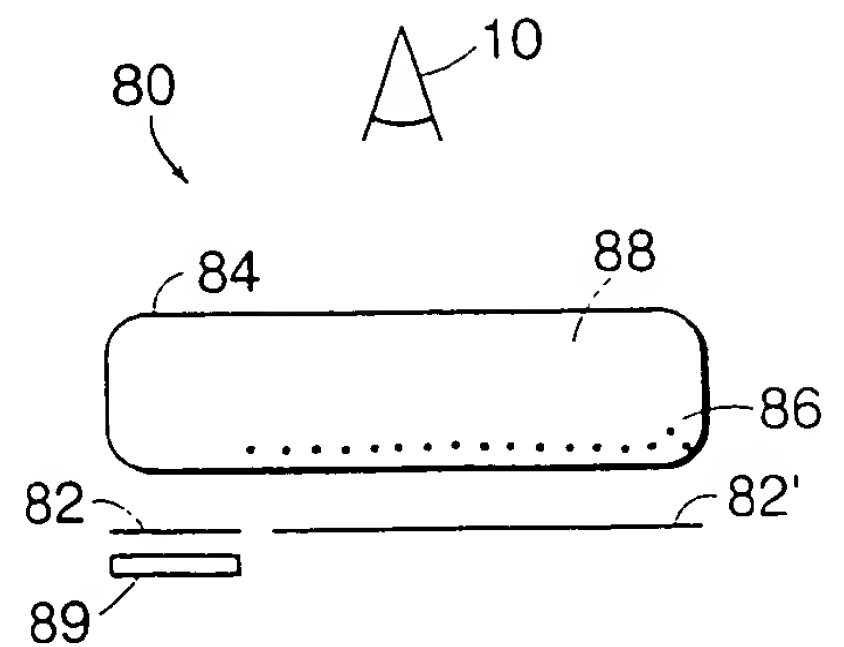


FIG. 5b

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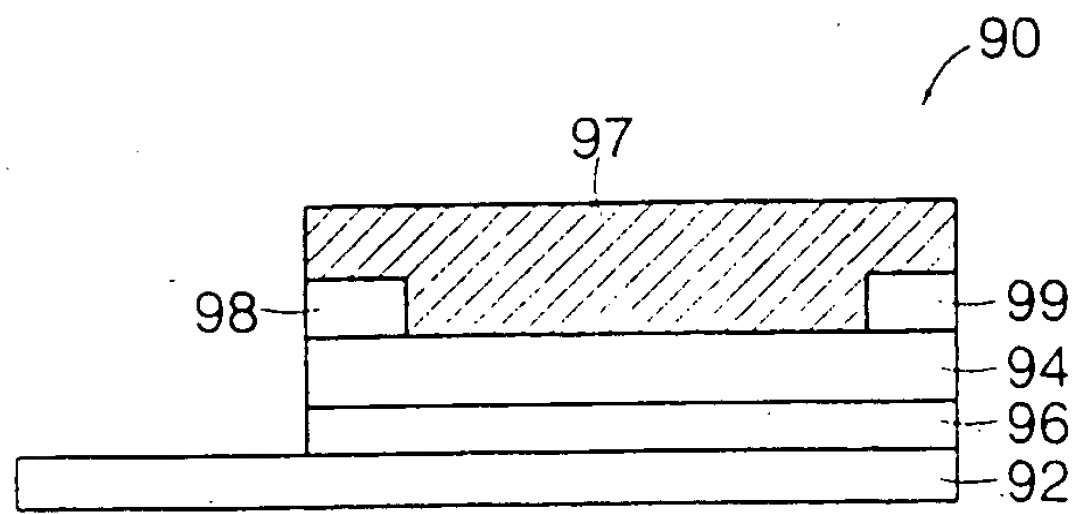


FIG. 6a

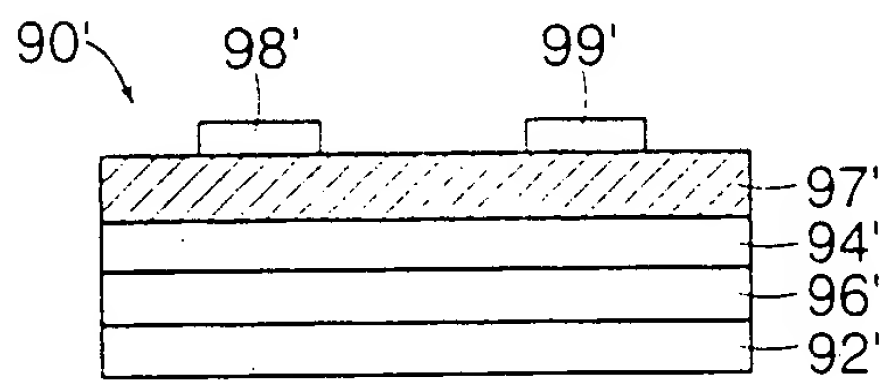


FIG. 6b

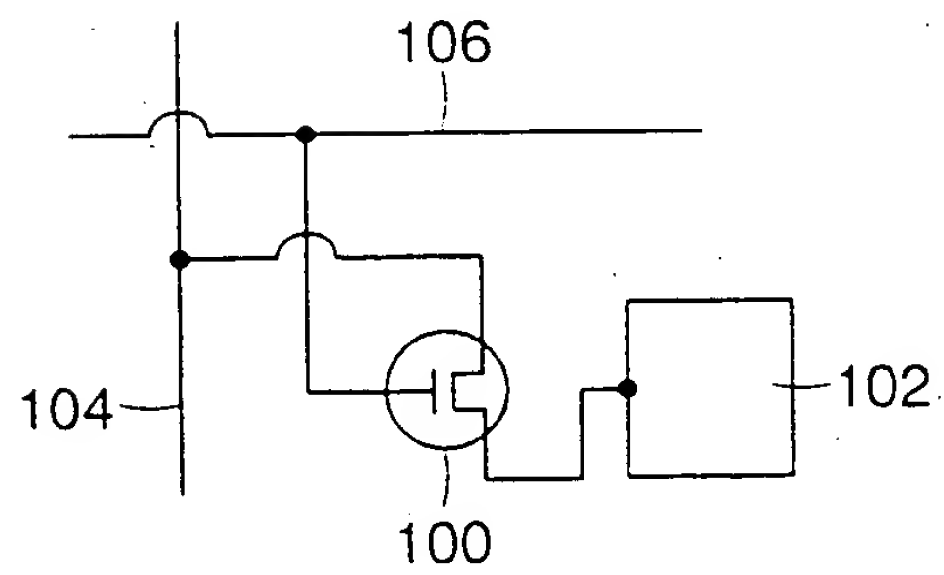


FIG. 7

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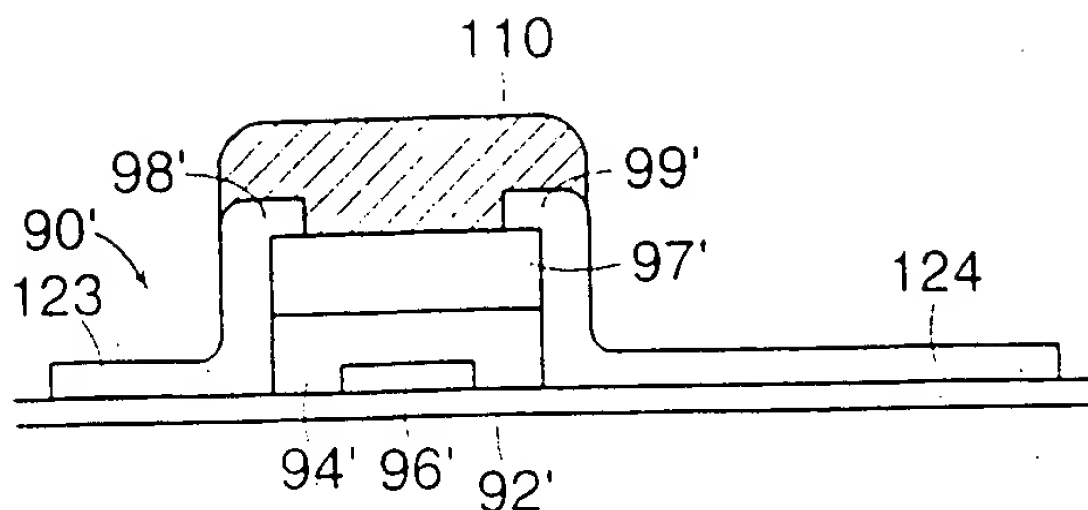


FIG. 8

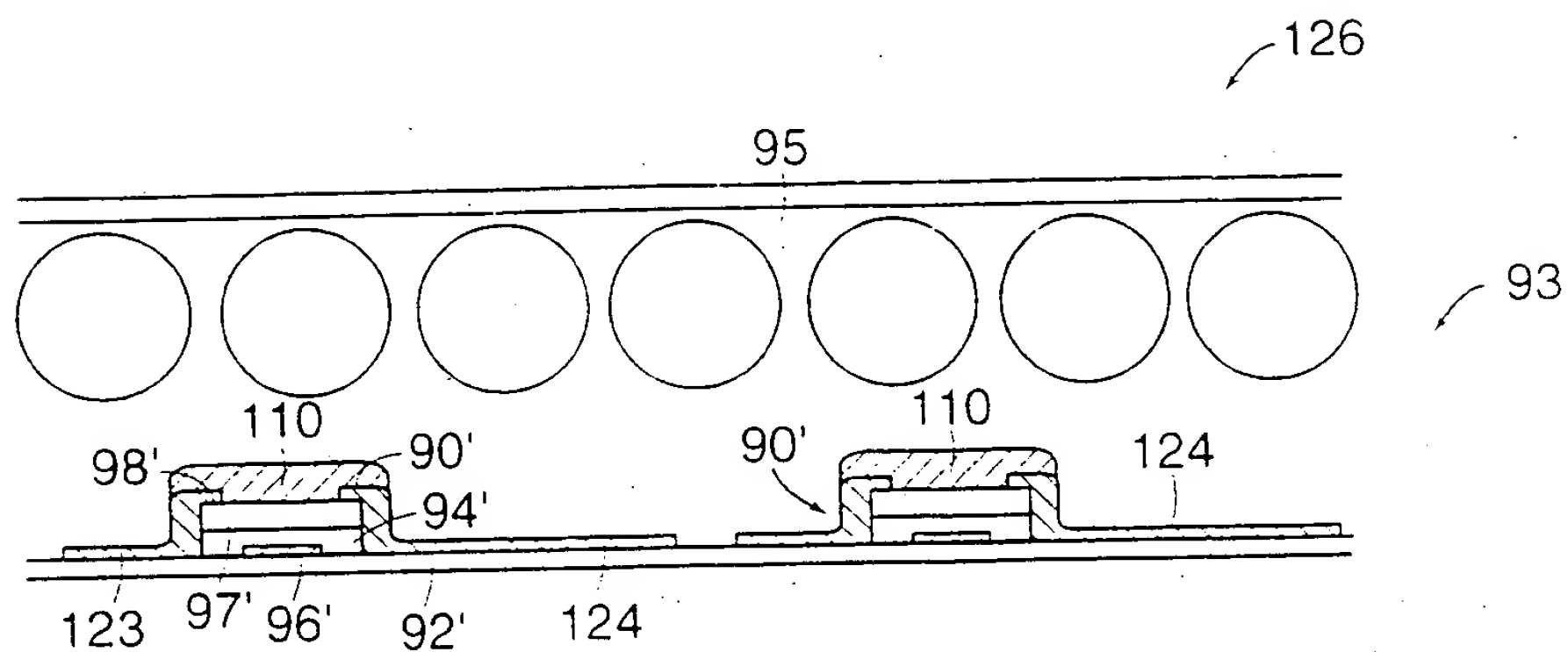


FIG. 9

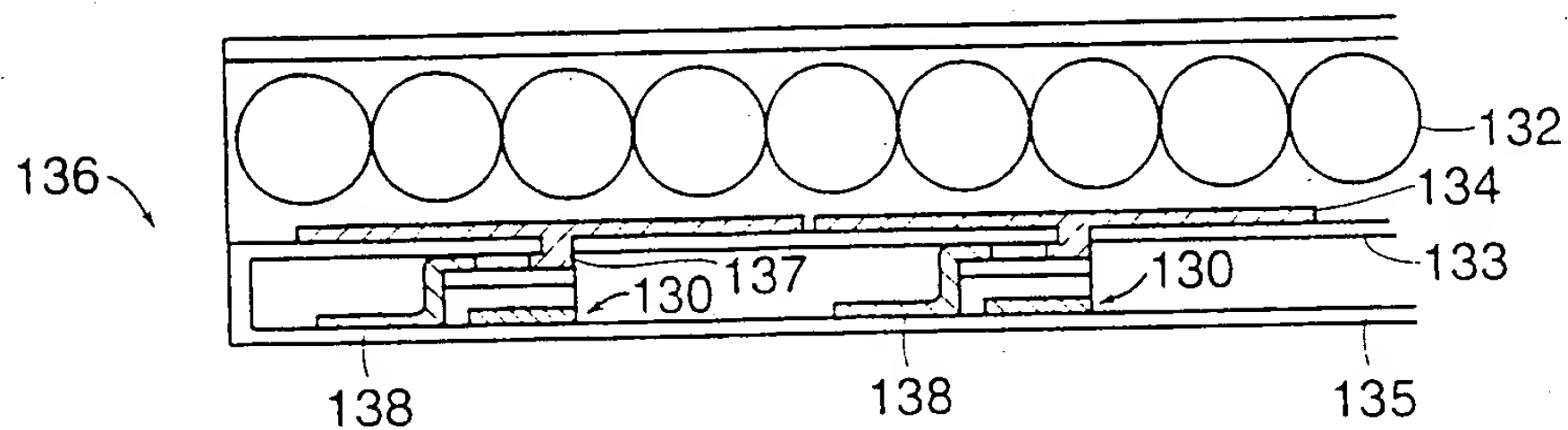


FIG. 10

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter national Application No
PCT/US 99/07853

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 G02F1/136 H01L51/20 H01L27/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 H01L G02F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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| | --- -/-- | |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

27 August 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

09/09/1999

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Authorized officer

Königstein, C

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 99/07853

| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 99/07853

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No |
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